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LETTER DATED 4 DECEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of a fresh act of aggression committed by forces of the United States of America in our region, this time against an Iraqi vessel assigned to carry water and a tug that were at anchor near the Iraqi port of Al-Mina' al-Amiq.

At 2045 hours on 1 December 1994 a United States force of three military helicopters carried out a boarding action, in which 10 United States soldiers took part, against the Iraqi vessel Al-Tharthar, which is assigned to carry water, and the seagoing tug Muhayjiran. They fired on the crews of the tanker and the tug, and the two vessels were taken with their crews 20 nautical miles south under escort by a United States Navy unit. Some of the Iraqi crew members were struck by members of the attacking United States force. After the crew members had been questioned concerning the length and beam of the tanker, the type of cargo carried, the size of the crew and ownership of the tanker, the vessel and the tug were released at 1730 hours on 2 December 1994, and they returned to their previous locations.

This fresh act of unwarranted military aggression is a flagrant violation of the provisions and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law and a breach of the cease-fire. It confirms the persistence of the Government of the United States of America in seizing every opportunity to attack Iraq and to violate its territorial waters, its soil and its airspace.

We condemn this act of aggression in the strongest terms, and we hold the Government of the United States of America fully responsible for its consequences. We further request your intervention, in accordance with the responsibilities entrusted to you under the provisions of the Charter, in order to condemn these criminal acts and ensure that the necessary measures are taken to halt them and prevent their recurrence.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative